

## BLINDFOLDED

A Mystery Story  
of San Francisco

BY

FABLE ASHLEY WALCOTT

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"What's the story?" I asked, peering over the door once more with my eyes closed, a warm room and a fresh blanket on my arm.

"The man's shown up, sir," said the man. "Owens and Larson went out to look for him toward evening yesterday, but there wasn't a sign of him."

"The man's shown up, sir," said the man. "Owens and Larson went out to look for him toward evening yesterday, but there wasn't a sign of him."

"There was a letter for you," said the man. "I fear forgot."

"I'll take it," I said, for the address was in the hand of the unknown. The sheet within bore the name.

"Where is the boy? Have you seen him?" Send the key to Richmond. Let me know when you return. I must see you as soon as it is possible."

I read the note three or four times and then I was more bewildered than before. I had left the boy in the room, but certainly he was not the one who meant. He was the "man's" and my employer must have known that I had taken him to the room. Or could that expedition be a test of the enemy to divert my attention? I dismissed this theory as soon as it suggested itself.

The closing portion of the note set me thinking fast. At last I was to have the opportunity to meet my mysterious employer face to face. But what explanation was I to make? What reception would I meet when I learned that Henry Wilton had given up his life in her service and that I, who had taken his place, could do nothing of the things she wished to have?

I wrote a brief note to Richmond stating that I had no key, inclosed the envelope, with the remark that I had returned and gave it to Owens to deliver. I was in some anxiety lest



minute, "you are going to see what hasn't been seen in the Boards for years, and I reckon you'll never see it again."

"What is it?" I asked politely. I was prepared for almost any kind of fireworks in that arena.

Doddridge Knapp made no reply, but raised his hand as if to command silence, and a moment later the call of Omega was heard. And, for a moment, a strange stillness did fall on the throng.

At the word of call I saw Doddridge Knapp step down to the floor of the pit, calm, self-possessed, his shoulders squared and his look as proud and forceful as that of a monarch who ruled by the might of his sword, while a grim smile played about his stern mouth.

The silence of the moment that followed was almost painful, when the voice of Doddridge Knapp rang like a trumpet through the Board-rooms. "Five hundred for Omega!" This was a wild jump from 225 that was marked against the stock at the close on Saturday, but I supposed the King of the Street knew what he was about.

At the bid of Doddridge Knapp a few cries rose here and there, and he was at once the center of a group of gesticulating brokers. Then I saw Decker, pale, eager, alert, standing by the rail across the room, signaling orders to men who howled bids and plunged wildly into the crowd that surrounded his rival.

The bids and offers came back and forth with shouts and harks, yet they made but a murmur compared to the whirlwind of sound that had arisen from the pit at the former struggle. I had witnessed. There seemed but a few blocks of the stock on the market.

"This is great," chuckled Wallbridge, taking post before me. "There hasn't been anything like it since Decker captured Chollar in the election of '73. You don't remember that I guess?"

"I wasn't in the market then," I admitted.

"Lord! Just to hear that!" cried the stout little man, mopping his glistening head frantically and quivering with nervous excitement. "Doddridge Knapp bids 1,500 for the stock and only gets five shares. Oh, why ain't a chance to get into this?"

I heard a confused roar, above which rose the fierce tones of Doddridge Knapp.

"How many shares has he got to day?" I asked.

"Not 40 yet."

"And the others?"

"There's been about 2,000 sold."

I gripped the rail in nervous tension the battle seemed to be going against the King of the Street.

"Oh!" gasped Wallbridge, trembling with excitement. "Did you hear that? There! It's 1,700—now it's 1,775! Wilew!"

I echoed the exclamation.

"Why haven't I got 10,000 shares?" he groaned.

"Who is getting them?"

"Knapp got the last lot. O-oh, look there! Did you ever see the like of that?"

I looked. Decker, hatless, with hair disheveled, had leaped the rail and was hurrying into the throng that surrounded Doddridge Knapp.

"There was never two of 'em on the floor before," cried Wallbridge.

At Decker's appearance the brokers opened a lane to him, the cries fell and there was an instant of silence as the kings of the market thus came face to face.

I shall never forget the sight. Doddridge Knapp, massive, calm, forceful, surveyed his opponent with warlike composure. He was dressed in a high gray-brown suit that made him seem larger than ever. Decker was nervous, disheveled, his dress of black velvet off the pallor of his face, till it seemed as white as his shirt bosom, as he confronted the King of the Street.

The foes faced each other, watching as two wrestlers looking to seize a opening, and the Board-room held its breath. Then the crowd of brokers closed in again and the clamor rose once more.

I could not make out the progress of the contest, but the trained ear of Wallbridge interpreted the explosion of inarticulate sound.

"Phew! Listen to that! Two thousand, 2,100, 2,150. Great snakes! See her jump!" he cried. "Decker's getting it!"

My heart sank. Doddridge Knapp must have smothered his brain once more in the Black Smoke, and was now paying the price of indolence. And his plans of wealth were a sacrifice to the wild and criminal scheme into which he had entered in his contest against the Unknown.

The clang of the gong recalled me from the reverie that had shut out the details of the scene before me.

"There! Did you hear that?" groaned Wallbridge. "Omega closes at 2,600 and Decker takes every tick. Oh, why didn't you have me on the floor out there? By the great horn spoon, I'd 'a' had every share of that stock, and wouldn't 'a' paid more than half as much for it, neither."

I sighed and turned, sick at heart, to meet the King of the Street as he shouldered his way from the floor.

(To be continued.)

—IF—

You WANT a cook

You WANT a situation

You WANT help

You WANT to sell

You WANT to buy

Use the classified column of

THE NEWS.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XIII.—Fourth Quarter,  
For Dec. 27, 1908.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, a Comprehensive  
Quarterly Review—Golden Text,  
Prov. iv, 23—Commentary Prepared  
by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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LESSON I.—David brings the ark to Jerusalem (II Sam. vi, 1-12). Golden Text, Ps. c. 4, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." The ark of the Lord of the whole earth is the topic in this first lesson and also in the eleventh lesson. Here it is carried at first in man's way, but there in God's appointed way. The great truth in connection with it is that of God dwelling with man as his righteousness through Christ Jesus.

LESSON II.—God's promise to David (I Chron. xvii, 1-14). Golden Text, I Kings viii, 56, "There hath not failed one word of all His good promise." This is a great Messianic lesson, in which David is assured that the Messiah shall come through him, shall be an immortal man and shall sit and reign upon his throne forever in righteousness and truth. He will be the one who dwelt between the cherubim over the mercy seat (Ex. xxv, 22).

LESSON III.—David's kindness to Jonathan's son (II Sam. ix). Golden Text, Eph. iv, 32, "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another." This was not mere ordinary kindness and forgiveness; it was the forgiveness of a king who made the forgiven one a member of his own household, with a seat at his table, and restored to him all the inheritance of his father. It is a picture of the kingdom when the Son of David shall reign.

LESSON IV.—The joy of forgiveness (Ps. xxxii). Golden Text, Ps. xxxii, 1, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." The gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord proclaims forgiveness of sins apart from any works of ours (Rom. i, 1-3; iv, 1-8, 23-25), wholly through the precious blood of Christ (Eph. i, 7). This redemption includes all else we can possibly need (Rom. vi, 32) and should cause great gladness in the Lord.

LESSON V.—Absalom rebels against David (II Sam. xv, 1-21). Golden Text, Ex. xx, 12, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." This rebellion suggests that of the nation against the Son of David and the great rebellion yet of the future spoken of in Dan. xi, 31-45; Rev. xiii, xvii and xix, but the Son of David shall come in all His glory, and all His adversaries shall be overthrown.

LESSON VI.—David grieves for Absalom (II Sam. xviii, 24-33). Golden Text, Prov. xvii, 25, "A foolish son is a grief to his father." I think our attention in this lesson should be given to the love of David, who would gladly have died for his son, and from him to our Father in heaven, who commands His love to us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

LESSON VII.—The Lord our Shepherd (Ps. xxiii). Golden Text, Ps. xxiii, 1, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." A meditation upon the Lord as the good Shepherd, the great Shepherd and the Chief Shepherd is always profitable. He gave His life for us. He lives His life in us, and He will have His kingdom with us. With such a Shepherd we can lack nothing.

LESSON VIII.—Solomon anointed King (I Kings i, 32-40). Golden Text, I Chron. xxviii, 9, "Know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind." The rebellion of Adonijah against Solomon came to naught, for it was the purpose of the Lord that Solomon should reign, and every purpose of the Lord shall be performed. He sat on the throne of the Lord as King instead of David, but that throne still awaits a greater than Solomon.

LESSON IX.—World's temperance Sunday (Isa. xxviii, 1-13). Golden Text, I Cor. ix, 27, "I keep under my body and bring it into subjection." If there is anything the world needs specially to know it is the foundation of verse 14 and the coming judgments of verses 17, 18. If the people given to strong drink saw less of the drunkenness of verse 9, and more of the rest and refreshing of xxviii, 12, fewer so called temperance talks would be necessary. Jesus, lifted up, will draw men.

LESSON X.—Solomon chooses wisdom (I Kings iii, 4-15). Golden Text, Prov. ix, 10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Having just been exalted to his high position and realizing in some measure his own inefficiency, he asks of God wisdom to rule the people righteously. The request pleased the Lord, and He granted him not only what he asked, but exceeding abundantly more (Eph. iii).

LESSON XI.—Solomon dedicates the temple (I Kings viii, 1-11). Golden Text, Ps. cxxii, 1, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Both tabernacle and temple when dedicated were filled with the glory of the Lord, and no man could stand to minister. Both were typical of Jesus Christ, in whom dwelt the fullness of the Godhead.

LESSON XII.—A Christmas lesson (Luke ii, 8-20). Golden Text, Luke ii, 11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." Still a kingdom lesson, for He was born King of the Jews to sit on the throne of David, and this purpose of the Lord shall be performed also.

TAFT PROMISES  
TO VISIT TEXASCordial Invitation Comes  
From Thirty Cities.

## WANT TO GET ACQUAINTED

President-elect, In Turn, Is Anxious For Opportunity to Express to Southerners His Determination to Bring the Next Administration into Close Touch With the South—Tour Will Be Made After Special Session of Congress Adjourns.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23.—President-elect William H. Taft decided to visit the state of Texas at some convenient time after his inauguration, preferably at the end of the special session of congress. While his itinerary for the visit has not been arranged, he will make the city of Dallas one of the principal points of the trip.

Thirty cities and towns of the Lone Star state united in a request for his presence at any time he should choose to come. The invitation expressed a keen desire on the part of the commercial bodies of the places in question to make the personal acquaintance of Mr. Taft and promised him a cordial welcome.

The acceptance of the invitation is in accordance with Judge Taft's well-defined plan to impress upon the south the necessity of becoming practical in its policies; he is to bring his administration into close touch with the south, according to his declaration, and hopes to bring the people of that section to realize the necessity of itself taking a hand in national affairs.

Mr. Taft said that he had written Frank H. Hitchcock, future postmaster general, to visit him here for a week or more. Mr. Hitchcock is expected within a few days. Senator Knox, who also is expected, has as yet not indicated when he will be here.

As the result of a casual remark by Mr. Taft at the Country club dinner, that he had not been able to find a saddle "that was big enough to stick a postage stamp on," Judge Taft was presented by Superior Court Judge Henry G. Hammond with a saddle of ample proportions. Mr. Taft will add riding to his routine of daily exercise.

## OUR ALIEN POPULATION

Secretary Straus Reports Increase Last Year of Only 6,298.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The increase in the alien population of the United States in the year ending Sept. 30 last was only 6,298. Secretary of Commerce and Labor Straus called the attention of President Roosevelt to these figures.

According to Secretary Straus 723,112 foreigners came to this country in the year between Oct. 1, 1907, and Sept. 30 last, but during the same period 717,814 foreigners left our shores for their own countries. Some of these, however, were naturalized Americans going abroad to live, but the exact number of these was not obtained.

Spectacular Burning of a Steamer. Chicago, Dec. 23.—Thousands of people on the lake front witnessed the spectacular burning of the "Eagle," an old passenger boat which, after having been towed two miles out, had been covered with oil and tar and set on fire. Many attracted by the unusual sight believed they were witnessing a tragedy. The captain of a life saving crew, unaware that the boat was set on fire purposely, sent a tug part of the way out to render assistance.

## SECRET MARRIAGE ANNOUNCED

## Fears—Wills.

Quite a surprise was sprung when the secret marriage of Simpson D. Wills to Miss Anna Mae Fears was announced.

The bride is the daughter of Judge J. R. Fears, of Henry county. Miss Fears bears the distinction of being one of the most popular and sweetest girls of New Castle, and is a universal favorite here. She is formerly a graduate of New Castle high school. The groom is a son of B. T. Wills and is a prominent and well-known young farmer. The marriage took place beneath a lovely shade of maples, where they met, Rev. J. M. Rash soon united them in the holy bonds of matrimony. ctoManYDe bonds of wedlock, the only witnesses being Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Allen. The bride preferred the marriage be kept secret until she could finish school.

The news of their wedding will be quite a surprise to their many friends who wish them ever success and future happiness. They will live near Ruckerville where the groom has prepared a home.

## Even After an Election.

The average man thinks his brand of politics is the only real thing.—Chicago News.

## You Cannot Answer These Questions!

1—Why do you continue bathing your knees and elbows one at a time, when you can stretch out in a full bath tempered to suit you, and can do so every morning if you wish?

2—Why pump and carry water for your kitchen and laundry work when you can have it at hand for the turning of a faucet?

3—Why take chances on drinking germ-filled cistern water when you can get it from a large reservoir filtered through the best filter plant South of the Ohio River?

4—Why have a dry, dismal-looking yard when you can have it filled with green grass and blooming flowers, and can at the same time get rid of the dust in the street?

5—Why suffer other inconveniences when you can have everything for the comfort and health of your family right in the house?

6—Is it not true that the answer is not "lack of money," but lack of economy and enterprise and indifference to getting the most out of life?

C. F. ATTERSALL, Superintendent

## Winchester Water Works Co.,

INCORPORATED.

At cor. Maple Street and Lexington Avenue, will tell you all about it. You'll be surprised at how inexpensive these privileges are.

## The Holiday Season



is a happy one for all particularly in the pretty and attractive homes that are finished indoors and out with our perfect and artistic mill-work. Staircases, wainscoting, mantels, arches, panels, stairways, etc., look doubly pretty

when decorated with the Christmas signs like holly, mistletoe, etc. It is truly the "house beautiful" if the woodwork is furnished by us.

R. P. SCOBEE SON &amp; CO.

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## An Advance for Winchester!

WE have just installed at great expense our new engine and other machinery with which we are now prepared to furnish DAY CURRENT for light and heat, and power for fans and other motors.

Let us give you estimates on this and all sorts of electric lighting. Remember that electric light is superior to all others. It is safe, clean, cheap, comfortable, convenient, ever ready. We furnish it on meter if desired.

## Winchester Railway, Light &amp; Ice Co.

INCORPORATED.

W. P. HACKETT, GENL. MGR.

P. S.—We furnish ice in winter as well as summer.

## Do Men Read Advertisements?

Read This One at Any-Rate.

## THIS COUPON

Cut out and presented to us is good for  
50c on a Cash Purchase  
Men's \$5.00 Shoes.

Good Until  
Dec. 1, '08. MASSIE, The Shoe Man.

We Do Not Reserve Any \$5 Shoe in our Store.

MASSIE, The Shoe Man.

## Citizens National Bank.

Paid up Capital \$100,000.

Surplus \$42,000.

## WE SOLICIT YOUR BUSINESS.

Will give you courteous treatment and attend promptly and carefully to all business entrusted to us

J. D. Simpson, Pres.

A. H. Hampton, Cashier.

T. F. Phillips V. Pres.

J. W. Poynter, Ass't Cashier.

Instantaneous Relief for Croup. Croup can be cured in one minute, and the remedy is simply alum and sugar. The way to accomplish the deed is to take a knife or grater and shave off in small particles about a teaspoonful of alum; then mix with twice the amount of sugar to make it palatable, and administer it as soon as possible.

Inhabitants of the Museum. Little Dorothy had been taken by a friend to visit the museum and was very much interested in the stuffed animals in the glass cages, and also in the statuary. On returning home she ran eagerly to her mother, saying: "Oh, mamma, we saw some real, live, stuffed animals and some sample people."

## ANYTHING

For sale, for rent, advertisement in the classified column

THE NEWS.

THE NEWS.